

App. No. 10/148731
Office Action Dated September 21, 2004
Amd. Dated January 21, 2005

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Claim 1 is hereby amended as supported, for example, by Figs. 1, 3, 4A and 4B and the specification. Claim 2 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added. Claims 1 and 3-5 are pending.

Applicants hereby enclose a copy of the PCT/IB/304 indicating the International Bureau sent the priority documents for this application. Applicants request that the Examiner confirm the perfection of the claim for priority.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al. (US 4,896,946) in view of Applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA) as disclosed on pages 1-2 and fig. 5 of the instant application and further in view of JP 11-305250. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a display module. The display panel includes a display layer sandwiched between two plates. Claim 1 requires (a) the terminal pattern of the display panel is provided on a common surface of one of the plates along three sides edges, the common surface facing the display layer, (b) the electrode terminals of the flexible board are provided at edge portions on a common surface of the main portion so as to correspond to the terminal pattern of the display panel, (c) the flexible board is integrated with the display panel by overlapping the main portion, with the display panel with the common surface of the main portion facing the common surface of the plate so that the electrode terminals face the terminal pattern, (d) the electrode terminals are connected with the terminal pattern using an electrical conductive tape or an electrically conductive adhesive. Moreover, the display module structure for connecting the

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electrode terminals with the terminal pattern is simple, thereby reducing its size. Furthermore, since one of the plates of the display panel is interposed between the common surface of the terminal pattern and the board for disposing the electrode terminals, the board should be flexible in order to relax the distance between the electrode terminals and the terminal pattern in the thickness direction.

Suzuki teaches a liquid crystal display device having a circuit board (11) and a liquid crystal display cell (39) mounted on the circuit board. The liquid crystal display cell (39) is composed of an upper substrate (35) and a lower substrate (37). The upper substrate has opposite projecting edges (41, 47), which extend outwardly from the display area. The projecting edges (41, 47) include first and second signal electrode terminal sections (43, 49) on the lower surface thereof. The lower substrate (37) has a projecting edge (53) including a scanning electrode terminal section (55) on the upper surface thereof. Since the scanning electrodes (57) of the terminal section (55) and the outer scanning electrodes (21) of the outer scanning electrical terminal section (23) of the circuit board (11) face upward, they can not be directly interconnected. Therefore, the outer scanning electrodes (21) and the scanning electrodes (57) are connected through the flexible printed substrate (63), which has conductive electrodes (65).

Suzuki fails to teach or suggest (a) the terminal pattern of the display panel is provided on a common surface of one of the plates along three sides edges, the common surface facing the display layer, (b) the electrode terminals of the flexible board are provided at edge portions on a common surface of the main portion so as to correspond to the terminal pattern of the display panel, (c) the flexible board is integrated with the display panel by overlapping the main portion with the display panel, with the common surface of the main portion facing the common surface

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of the plate so that the electrode terminals face the terminal pattern, (d) the electrode terminals are connected with the terminal pattern using an electrical conductive tape or an electrically conductive adhesive. That is, Suzuki does not disclose the display panel and flexible board as required by the display module structure of claim 1. AAPA and JP 11-305250 are cited for features other than those discussed above and neither remedies the deficiencies of Suzuki. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-5 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1. For the reasons discussed above for claim 1, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

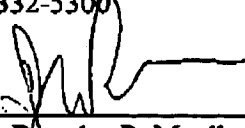
In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions or concerns regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612)371.5237.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 21, 2005

By 
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DPM:mmm

PCT/JP01/08688

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

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Date of mailing (day/month/year) 20 November 2001 (20.11.01)	
Applicant's or agent's file reference H1186-02	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
International application No. PCT/JP01/08688	International filing date (day/month/year) 02 October 2001 (02.10.01)
International publication date (day/month/year) Not yet published	Priority date (day/month/year) 04 October 2000 (04.10.00)
Applicant MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD. et al	

1. The applicant is hereby notified of the date of receipt (except where the letters "NR" appear in the right-hand column) by the International Bureau of the priority document(s) relating to the earlier application(s) indicated below. Unless otherwise indicated by an asterisk appearing next to a date of receipt, or by the letters "NR", in the right-hand column, the priority document concerned was submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b).
2. This updates and replaces any previously issued notification concerning submission or transmittal of priority documents.
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Priority date	Priority application No.	Country or regional Office or PCT receiving Office	Date of receipt of priority document
04 Octo 2000 (04.10.00)	2000-304573	JP	19 Nove 2001 (19.11.01)

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 G n va 20, Switzerland Facsimile No. (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer David MALEK Telephone No. (41-22) 338.83.38
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